

City of Greenville Media Release

P. O. Box 2207 • 206 South Main Street • Greenville, SC 29602

For immediate release

Subject: Convention Center Task Force
Contact: Jack Sterling, Chairman, Convention Center Task Force, 751-6100
Jim Campbell, Assistant City Manager and staff to Task Force, 467-4427

GREENVILLE, SC – Getting everyone “on the same page” was the first order of business as the Convention Center Task Force held its first meeting on April 17. Twenty-two business and community leaders heard presentations covering the history and operations of the Palmetto Expo Center as well as the important role convention centers play in a community’s economic development and quality of life.

According to Jack Sterling, committee chairman, “we had a great first meeting. We are fortunate to have a committee made up of well-qualified, knowledgeable people.” The committee includes hospitality industry leaders, attorneys, accountants as well as other business and community leaders. While the Task Force was appointed by the Greenville City Council, Sterling noted that the majority of the members live outside the city limits of Greenville and have a community-wide focus.

The mission of the Task Force is “to help develop a quality convention and conference center which will increase Greenville’s competitiveness.” Sterling identified three key issues for the committee: location, facility design and financing. He also appointed subcommittees to make recommendations on each issue.

Task Force members heard presentations from Chris Stone, President of the Greenville Convention and Visitors Bureau, John Wilusz, new General Manager of the Palmetto Expo Center and Norm Gollub, City Economic Development Planner. Task Force members also received copies of previous studies concerning the Expo Center and its surroundings.

Sterling said the Task Force will meet approximately every two weeks and hopes to complete its recommendations within a few months.

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